

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 OES-02 AF-04 EUR-08 EA-06

NEA-06 ARA-06 SP-02 INR-05 EB-03 /060 W

----- 108925

P R 111430Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1392

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NAIROBI 1266

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH EXDIR STRONG ON PENDING

CHANGES AT UNEP

REF: NAIROBI 1144; STATE 29166

SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF FULL AND FRANK DISCUSSION OF UNEP  
SUCCESSION/TRANSITION PROBLEMS, EXDIR STRONG URGED THAT USG

MAKE UP ITS MIND NOW WHETHER TO ACCEPT DE CUELLAR  
NOMINATION AND START WORKING TO KEEP REMAINDER OF UNEP'S  
TOP STAFF TOGETHER OR TO TRY TO UNLOCK DE CUELLAR NOMINATION.  
WORST ACTION WOULD BE FOR U.S. TO TAKE NO POSITION. HE  
ALSO SAID IT WOULD HELP HIM IN HIS EFFORTS TO PLAN A SMOOTH  
TRANSITION IF HE COULD BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF USG'S  
POSITION. I WOULD AGREE THAT TIME HAS COME FOR US TO FISH  
OR CUT BAIT ON SUCCESSION ISSUE, AND HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL  
AUTHORIZE ME TO KEEP STRONG AS FULLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE OF OUR  
POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. APPRECIATE DEPT'S GUIDANCE FOR MY FEB. 10 LUNCHEON  
CONVERSATION WITH UNEP EXDIR STRONG, WHICH WAS FULL AND  
FRANK. HE TOOK POSITION THAT WHILE IT POSSIBLE HE  
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MIGHT REMAIN WITH UNEP UNTIL LATTER PART 1975, HE UNWILL-

ING TO MAKE UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT, IN PART BECAUSE SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT ENCOURAGE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO DEFER NEEDED DECISIONS ON SUCCESSION. HE FELT SUCCESSION ISSUE MUST BE SETTLED ASAP IF ANY OF UNEP'S TOP TOHY TO BE RETAINED, AS MANY HAVE OTHER OFFERS THEY ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING.

2. STRONG CONFIRMED THAT HE REGARDS PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S NOMINATION AND ELECTION TO UNEP EXDIR POSITION AS QTE LOCKED IN UNQTE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE WLADHEIM HAS PUT IN WRITING HIS INTENTION TO NOMINATE PERUVIAN FOR POSITION QTE IN 1975 UNQTE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE AFRICAN GROUP (THROUGH IVORY COAST PERM REP) HAS GIVEN WRITTEN REPEAT WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF ITS SUPPORT. BOTH ASSURANCES WERE SOUGHT BY PERUVIANS, WHO WERE UNWILLING TO WITHDRAW FROM UNIDO CONTEST WITH ONLY VAGUE PROMISE OF ANOTHER HIGH UN POSITION.

3. IN VIEW THIS PROBABILITY, STRONG SAID HE HAS GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO BEST WAY TO RETAIN KEY STAFF WITHIN UNEP FRAME- WORK TO PROVIDE NEEDED CONTINUITY, AND HAS COME UP WITH FOLLOWING PROPOSEAL WHICH HE SAYS HE DISCUSSED BY TELEPHONE WITH HERTER LAST WEEK:

A) GIVE PRESENT DEPUTY EXDIR TOLBA RESPONSIBILITY FOR 1977 UN CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION AND POSSIBLY ALSO ASSIGNMENT IN AREA OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

B) MOVE FROSCHE UP TO DEPUTY EXDIR POSITION.

C) REPLACE FROSCHE AS ASSISTANT EXDIR FOR PROGRAMS WITH EVTEEV, SOVIET SCIENTIST CURRENTLY SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF UNEP'S POLICY PLANNING OFFICE.

D) MOVE BERTHOUD FROM UNEP FUND TO HEAD IHHSF. BERTHOUD HAS INDICATED HE WANTS TO LEAVE NAIROBI AND RETURN TO SWITZERLAND FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

E) REPLACE BERTHOUD AS DIRECTOR OF FUND WITH PHILIP NDEGWA, KENYAN NATIONAL WHO WAS FORMERLY PERM SEC IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING AND IS NOW UNEP ECONOMIC ADVISER.

4. STRONG REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT IT IS TIME FOR MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY USG, TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS WHETHER TO ACCEPT DE CUELLAR AND WORK TO KEEP AS MUCH OF CONFIDENTIAL

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REMAINDER OF UNEP'S TOP-LEVEL STAFF TOGETHER AS POSSIBLE OR TO TRY TO UNLOCK DE CUELLAR NOMINATION. WORST THING, IN HIS MIND, WOULD BE TO DO NOTHING, AS THIS WOULD ENSURE TOP-LEVEL DEPARTURES AND POSSIBLY JEOPARDIZE UNEP'S POLICY DIRECTIONS AT TIME WHEN PROGRESS JUST BECOMING APPARENT. HE ASKED THAT HE BE KEPT AS FULLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE OF USG POSITION, AS THIS ESSENTIAL TO HIS EFFORTS TO PLAN A SMOOTH TRANSITION.

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 OES-02 AF-04 EUR-08 EA-06

NEA-06 ARA-06 SP-02 INR-05 EB-03 /060 W

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P R 111430Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1303

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NAIROBI 1266

LIMDIS

5. I PROMISED T DO MY BEST IN THIS REGARD, AND FEEL STRONGLY IT IS IN U.S. INTERESTS TO DO SO . I ALSO FULLY ENDORSE STRONG'S VIEW THAT TIME HAS COME FOR US TO FISH OR CUT BAIT. IT CLEAR, EVEN FROM OUR LIMITED VANTAGE POINT HERE, THAT OTHER WE/O'S LOOKING TO U.S. FOR LEADER-SHIP. EMBASSY'S INITIAL REACTION TO STRONG'S PROPOSED REARRANGEMENT OF UNEP STAFF (PARA 3 ABOVE) IS THAT IT HAS SOME OBVIOUS DANGERS. WILL EVTEEV, FOR INSTANCE, BE PREPARED POLITICALLY TO GIVE PROPER BALANCE IN THE FACE OF LDC EFFORTS TO EMPHASIZE DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF UNEP'S PROGRAM, EFFORTS WHICH NDEGWA CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROMOTE AS FUND DIRECTOR. IF EVTEEV DUCKS THIS ISSUE, CAN FROSCH HANDLE IT AS DEPUTY EXDIR WITH DE CUELLAR SITTING OVER HIM?

6. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE QUIETLY TO SUPPORT TOLBA'S EFFORTS (STATE 26978) TO UNLOCK DE CUELLAR'S NOMINATION. WE HAVE SOME EVIDENCE THAT HE IS CONTINUING TO PURSUE THIS LINE ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING THROUGH INFORMAL CHANNELS TO FRG. WE ALSO KNOW THAT KENYAN GOVT IS NOT HAPPY THAT ITS PERM REP JOINED AF GROUP IN SUPPORTING DE CUELLAR WITHOUT EVEN NOTIFYING NAIROBI. SOME LA'S ALSO SAID TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT DE CUELLAR'S NOMINATION, BUT QUESTIONABLE THAT ANY OR ALL OF THIS SUFFICIENT TO UNLOCK

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WALDHEIM/AF COMMITMENT TO PERUVIAN. MOREOVER, IF AFRICAN'S GET UNIDO, CAN THEY ALSO GET UNEP? IT EVEN LESS CLEAR FROM HERE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO UNLOCK DE CUELLAR NOMINATION BY SEEKING AT THIS STAGE TO PROMOTE AN AMERICAN OR OTHER WE/O CANDIDATE. BUT CLEARLY BASIC ISSUE OF DC OR LDC DIRECTORSHIP OF UNEP MUST BE FACED BY USG AT THIS TIME.

7. ON SUBJECT OF HIS OWN FUTURE PLANS, STRONG SAID HE WOULD ONLY TAKE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL POST IF ASSURED SUPPORT OF MAJOR DONORS, PARTICULARLY US., AND IF WFC MANDATE MORE CLEARLY SPELLED OUT. HE WOULD INTEND TO KEEP WFC AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE, WORKING THROUGH FAO RATHER THAN TRYING TO DOMINATE IT. IF HE WERE TO TAKE WFC POSITION, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE IN JULY OR AUGUST, AS HANNAH HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE DOES NOT WANT TO STAY BEYOND THAT. STRONG ALSO CONFIRMED PREVIOUS REPORT THAT HE INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF HEADING PETRODOLLAR INVESTMENT TRUST, A PROPOSAL RECENTLY FLOATED BY ROBERT ROOSA AND CAROL WILSON IN ARTICLE IN JAN. 1975 ISSUE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ACCORDING TO STRONG, PROPOSED TRUST HAS HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORT FROM CONSUMER NATIONS, INCLUDING U.S. INITIAL RESULTS OF SOUNDINGS NOW UNDERWAY WITH OPEC COUNTRIES, WHICH WOULD FURNISH ESTIMATED \$10 BILLION CAPITAL, ALSO FAVORABLE.

8. ON SUBJECT IHHSF, I TOLD STRONG THAT WHILE WE PREFERRED NEW YORK TO GENEVA, WE FULLY SUPPORTED HIS EFFORTS TO KEEP FOUNDATION OUT OF NAIROBI. I ALSO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OUR CONVERSATION TO MENTION U.S. INTEREST IN BEING KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF ALL ASPECTS OF EXPERTS MEETINGS (PARA 2 STATE 16407). STRONG TOOK NOTES AND SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT UNEP'S OFFICE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS ACCORDINGLY. MARSHALL

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SENV, KE, UNEP  
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